



CHILLIWACK SECONDARY SCHOOL

START-UP INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

WELCOME STORM FAMILIES!

Welcome to an exciting new school year at Chilliwack Secondary School! My name is Chuck Lawson, and I am honored to join the CSS community as your new principal.

As we begin this school year together, I encourage families to reach out to our team whenever support is needed. We want every student and family to feel welcomed, connected, and excited about the opportunities available at our school. As someone who is new to CSS, I have already been asking lots of questions as I learn more about the unique programs, traditions, and learning experiences that make this school such a special place. I encourage students and families to do the same. In a large secondary school, there is always a lot happening, and asking questions and staying connected with our staff are great ways to make the most of your high school experience.

I also encourage all students to connect regularly with their school counsellor throughout the year. Our counsellors provide a wide range of support and work closely with students to develop and monitor their graduation plans. Thoughtful graduation planning is an important part of secondary school, helping students enroll in engaging courses that support their interests, strengths, and future goals while opening pathways to post-secondary opportunities.

Finally, I strongly encourage students to get involved in the many extracurricular activities offered at CSS. We are fortunate to provide a wide variety of clubs, fine arts programs, leadership opportunities, and athletic experiences. Getting involved is one of the best ways to build connections, develop new skills, and create lasting memories. Be bold, step outside your comfort zone, and embrace the Storm spirit!

I wish all of our students and families an outstanding school year filled with learning, growth, and success. We look forward to working together to make this a fantastic year at Chilliwack Secondary School.

Go Storm!

GRADE 9 LINK WELCOME DAY – Thursday, September 3rd

We are thrilled to be offering the Grade 9 Link program at CSS. All Grade 9 students are strongly encouraged to attend.

Link is an orientation and mentoring program for Grade 9 students run by carefully trained Grade 11 & 12 students. The Link program helps transition Grade 9 students to CSS in a fun, supportive, and informative way. Grade 9 students will meet their Link Leaders, participate in fun activities, have a tour of our school, and receive their timetable.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8th - 8:30 AM TO 10:30 AM

The first day of school is a partial day. Students will go into the CSS Grand Hall in the center of our school to find Period 1 Class Lists organized by Grade Level. Students will look at the Class Lists to find their Last Name. Period 1 Class Lists will indicate the teacher, class, and room number our students should go to. Our Link Leaders and Staff Members will be there to help students find their name and class.

On the first day of school, we will also have a brief School-Wide Welcome Message and Free Welcome BBQ!

Busses are running 4 hours early on the first day of school. Busses will arrive at 10:56am; however, bus students may want to make alternate transportation arrangements so they can enjoy our Welcome BBQ.

First Day of School Schedule	
Time	Activity
8:25am	Warning Bell ➤ Find name (by last name) on class lists (by grade level) in Grand Hall
8:30am – 9:15am 45 min	Period 1 - Lockers, Timetables, and Welcome Message ➤ Meet Teacher and learn a little about the class ➤ Select your locker if you haven't picked one already! ➤ Timetable Distribution & Explanation ○ Bell Schedule explanation ○ Semester & Linear class explanation ➤ Review of Today's Schedule (help students know where to go)
9:15am – 9:20am 5 min	Change Periods – Head to Next Period Class
9:20am – 9:40am 20 min	Period 2 ➤ Meet Teacher and learn a little about the class ➤ For Linear Courses, students will go to their Day 1 location
9:40am – 9:45am 5 min	Change Periods – Head to Next Period Class
9:45am – 10:05am 20 min	Period 3 ➤ Meet Teacher and learn a little about the class ➤ For Linear Courses, students will go to their Day 1 location
10:05am – 10:10am 5 min	Change Periods – Head to Next Period Class
10:10am – 10:30am 20 min	Period 4 ➤ Meet Teacher and learn a little about the class
10:30am – 12:15pm 105 min	Free BBQ for Staff and Students Bus Students Picked Up at 10:56am - Grab food quickly before leaving!

PHOTO DAY- WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH

All students will be asked to have their photo taken for school records. Students will be called down to the photo area from their classes. Families can choose to purchase school photos if they like; this is optional. Instructions for ordering school photos will be sent out separately. All students should get a school photo to receive their student ID card.

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL – FULL DAYS

The first week of school will include daily grade-level assemblies:

Grade 9: Wednesday

Grade 12: Thursday

Grades 10 & 11: Friday

September 2026 Grade-Wide Assemblies Wednesday(9th), Thursday(10th) & Friday(11th) Bell Schedule	
TIME	PERIOD
8:30 – 10:22	Extended Period 1 (112)
10:22 – 10:27	Transition time (5)
10:27 – 11:42	Period 2 (75)
11:42 – 12:22	Lunch (40)
12:22 – 12:27	Transition time (5)
12:27 – 1:39	Period 3 (72)
1:39 – 1:44	Transition time (5)
1:44 – 2:56	Period 4 (72)

TIMETABLES:

Grade 9-12 timetables will be available for students when they arrive at their first period class. A list of each first period class will be posted in the Grand Hall, sorted by Grade then Last Name for student reference. Please note: timetables are created from the student course requests (including alternates) submitted last February/March. At times, due to conflicts in the timetables, students' first requests are not possible, and alternate courses are used. If there is a concern with your timetable (an error, missing graduation requirement or important changes needed for future goals), please email your counsellor with the appropriate request. These will be processed in the order in which they are received. Elective and teacher changes will not be considered at this time. We appreciate your patience as we process a high volume of requests. Our counsellors find it more efficient to respond to emails; they will offer appointments when and if things are too complicated to resolve by email. Counsellors are assigned to students based on their last names:

A - D	Ms. Stephanie Linau	email: stephanie_linau@sd33.bc.ca
E - K	Ms. Calvina Moffat	email: calvina_moffat@sd33.bc.ca
L - Q	Ms. Sarah Lee	email: sarah_lee@sd33.bc.ca
R - Z	Ms. Kim Hancock	email: kim_hancock@sd33.bc.ca

STORM BLOCK:

Storm Block is a 55 minute block of time every Wednesday after Period 1. Students will sign up for a Storm Block in their block 1 class. Students will choose from a variety of class options designed to help understand their learning preferences, gain organizational skills, and advocate for their self-interests. Some students will choose to dive deeper into specific passion areas offered. No matter what students select, they will still have time to get support and extra time for their

school work. All students are expected to attend Storm Block as it is mandatory instruction time. Attendance for Storm Block will be taken, and attendance will be communicated with families. The first Storm Block begins the third week of school.

ATTENDANCE:

Success in school is directly linked to attendance! Students who are chronically absent (miss 10% of classes or 2 days per month) fall significantly behind academically and have a higher risk of dropping out. All of us, staff, parents, and students, need to work together to ensure our students attend every class, every day. We will use the following ways to communicate attendance issues:

- Our daily phone dialer will alert you to your child's absence from school. Please ensure that we have the best number to reach you in our system. Students default to present in their classes and have to be actively changed to late or absent. It is rare for the phone dialer to phone as an error. If your child is repeatedly telling you that the dialer is calling in error, please contact the classroom teacher to inquire.
- Feel free to contact the school if you have any questions about attendance.

Our goal is to help your child graduate and prepare for their next step. Being here on a regular basis is imperative.

REPORTING ATTENDANCE:

To report an excused absence or late, we exclusively use the SafeArrival program.

Click this link for more information on SafeArrival: <https://css.sd33.bc.ca/report-absence> .

With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device.
 - Download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (links below). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.



2. Use the SafeArrival website,
 - The first time you use the website, select Sign Up (link below) to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.



3. Call the toll-free number 1-833-698-6567 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

LINKS, FORMS AND PERMISSION CLICK:

You will receive 4 separate emails from Permission Click asking you to read information and provide consent and digital signature on the following:

1. Acceptable Use Agreement – this is our district computer use policy
2. Walking Field Trip Form – this allows students to go on walking field trips with their classes
3. Media Release Form – this gives options regarding your child's name and image being used in various digital platforms
4. Aboriginal Ancestry Self Identification Form

There are additional links you might be interested in:

[Career Education](#) [Indigenous Education](#) [Chilliwack Secondary School Instagram Page](#)

MyEDUCATION BC

Please ensure that you log into MyEducation BC to review your schedule and demographic information for the 2026-27 school year. Please email css-officestaff@sd33.bc.ca with any changes to your demographics. You can find instructions on how to access MyEducation BC from [this link on our website](#) if you require assistance.

LOCKERS: NEW!

Lockers are selected by students online <http://css.lockerassignment.com/>

Step 1 . Log in using your student number Password: first and last initials in UPPERCASE and student number. example) if your name is Taylor Swift & your student # is 229988 your password is TS229988

Step 2. Select the school zone where you would like your locker to be located, then click "Select" to choose your locker number

Step 3. Once you have selected a locker your locker combination will pop up!

- You can log in at any time to see your assigned locker & Combination
- Screenshot your locker number and combination on your phone and save it in your Notes app for easy access!

More information regarding locker guidelines can be found on our website <https://css.sd33.bc.ca/announcement/locker-assignments>

BELL SCHEDULE: [VIEW ONLINE HERE](#)

2026 - 2027 Bell Schedule Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday	
TIME	PERIOD
8:30 – 9:52	Period 1 (82)
9:52 – 9:57	Transition time (5)
9:57 – 11:22	Period 2 (85)
11:22 – 12:02	Lunch (40)
12:02 – 12:07	Transition time (5)
12:07 – 1:29	Period 3 (82)
1:29 – 1:34	Transition time (5)
1:34 – 2:56	Period 4 (82)
Storm Block Bell Schedule Wednesday	
TIME	PERIOD
8:30 – 9:36	Period 1 (66)
9:36 – 9:40	Transition time (4)
9:40 – 10:46	Storm Block (66)
10:46 – 10:50	Transition time (4)
10:50 – 11:56	Period 2 (66)
11:56 – 12:36	Lunch (40)
12:36 – 12:40	Transition time (4)
12:40 – 1:46	Period 3 (66)
1:46 – 1:50	Transition time (4)
1:50 – 2:56	Period 4 (66)

CALENDAR:

The CSS calendar of school events is located [here on our website](#) and is updated regularly. Please take some time to note the dates for reporting periods, holidays, parent/teacher interviews and other important events.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

The CSS website includes our code of conduct and progressive discipline policy. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with our Code of Conduct and review this information with your student. You can find the link [here on our school website](#). Our aim is to create a safe and inclusive learning environment for all.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Each classroom teacher at CSS has an electronic device policy for their learning space. They will be sharing the expectations with their classes at the start of school. The general expectation is that there is no cell phone usage without direct teacher permission. Most teachers will ask for devices to be put away or turned in until they are to be used for educational purposes. Although devices can be a valuable resource in the classroom (when used appropriately) they can also be a distraction and potentially harmful. We do reserve the right to restrict students from the use of electronic devices in and around the school if concerns persist. Parents are encouraged to review appropriate uses with their child and to be vigilant in understanding what their child has access to. To help your child build the best digital reputation and help keep them safe check out <http://www.safeonline.ca/> for valuable tips. To use school devices, parents must sign our Acceptable Use Agreement (see forms section).

STUDENT PARKING:

Students who are driving to school must register their vehicle online <https://css.sd33.bc.ca/form/parking-registration> once registered the office will provide a parking pass to be displayed on the front bottom driver side of the vehicle. Students are not to loiter in their vehicle or the parking lot at any time before, during, or after the school day. This includes the designated lunch break.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

School supply lists are not provided; if teachers have specific school supply requests, they will let your student know during the first week of classes. All students should come to school with paper, pens & pencils to start.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE:

The Chilliwack School District or Schools [Protection Program \(SPP\)](#) does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities. Parents/Guardians are responsible for these expenses. iA Financial Group offers a comprehensive accident insurance plan with a critical illness component designed for the whole family.

STUDENT FEES & YEARBOOKS:

Parents/Guardians can log in to Student Quick Pay accounts anytime to view and pay student fees and complete field trip forms. Your Quick Pay account follows your student throughout the district. If you have logged in before, your username and password remain the same. If you have never logged in before, please click "Activate Account" and use the same email address the school has on file for you. The login link can be found on the homepage of our website with the button called "SD33 Pay Online" or StudentQuickPay.com

If a field trip has a fee, the field trip form must be completed first. The fee will then be added to your Quick Pay account. If you have questions about fees or are having trouble logging in, please contact css-finance@sd33.bc.ca.

Remember to buy your yearbook early. They are automatically added to your student pay accounts and removed after the fee deadline if they are not purchased. Yearbooks are \$45.00 when purchased prior to December 31, 2026. Books purchased January 1- February 26, 2027 will be increased to \$55.00. [Books must be paid in full prior to February 26th in order to receive your yearbook in June.](#)

SCENT AWARE ZONE:

CSS will attempt to limit the number of scents entering the building through our air. Environmental sensitivities is a diagnosed disability and students and staff that attend CSS each day experience the following range of symptoms as a result of their sensitivity: headaches dizziness, lightheaded nausea fatigue weakness shortness of breath upper respiratory symptoms, skin irritation and scents can trigger allergic or asthmatic patients. We ask that students limit the use of perfume and cologne and choose scent free options for the following products whenever possible: make up, shampoo, conditioner, and deodorants.

FRIDAYS "STORM WATCH" NEWSLETTERS:

Every Friday we will send our Parent/Student Storm Watch Newsletters. Please make sure you are looking over these emails for important dates, deadlines, links & events. If you do not receive them, please contact the office staff to make sure we have the correct email on file. They can also land in your junk mail folder!

SCHOOL WEBSITE: [CHILLIWACK SECONDARY SCHOOL](https://www.chilliwacksecondaryschool.ca)

The school website serves as a central hub for a wealth of information that can greatly benefit you and your child. We encourage you to take some time to explore our school website. Familiarizing yourself with its features will empower you to stay connected and actively participate in your child's education. Should you have any difficulties navigating the site or need assistance, please contact us.

WEBSITE: [CSS.SD33.BC.CA](https://www.css.sd33.bc.ca)

PHONE: (604) 795-7295

EMAIL: CSS-OFFICESTAFF@SD33.BC.CA

Let's co-create an awesome year and a fantastic school experience! Welcome back!

Sincerely,

Chuck Lawson, Principal